

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

**Please add new claims 21-24 as follows:**

**Claim 1.** (Previously Presented) A play-back device comprising:

- a plurality of play-back sources;
- a first output unit and a second output unit for selecting at least one of the play-back sources to output play-back signals from the at least one of the play-back sources;
- a first operation unit for operations relating to the first output unit;
- a second operation unit for operations relating to the second output unit;
- a control unit for deciding whether the first output unit and the second output unit have selected a common play-back source and whether the play-back signals from the common play-back source are in an output-stopped state and for inhibiting the release of the output-stopped state from the second operation unit in response to the control unit deciding that the play-back signals from the common play-back source are in an output-stopped state; and
- a priority setting unit for setting a priority for the first operation unit and the second operation unit.

**Claim 2.** (Original) The play-back device according to Claim 1, wherein the control unit includes an output stop setting unit for bringing the play-back signals from the at least one of the play-back sources in response to the operation from the first operation unit.

**Claim 3.** (Original) The play-back device according to Claim 1, wherein the control unit includes:

an interruption detecting unit for detecting an interruption signal; and  
an output stop setting unit for bringing the play-back signals from the at least one of the play-back sources into the output-stopped state when the interruption signal is detected by the interruption detecting unit.

Claim 4. (Original) The play-back device according to Claim 3, wherein the interruption detecting unit detects the interruption signal to detect the used state of a telephone.

Claim 5. (Previously presented) The play-back device according to Claim 1, wherein the second output unit comprises a headphone.

Claim 6. (Original) The play-back device according to Claim 1, wherein the first output unit outputs the play-back signals to the front side of a vehicular compartment, and wherein the second output unit outputs the play-back signals to the rear side of the vehicular compartment.

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) A play-back device comprising:  
a first operation unit and a second operation unit for operations to control the output states relating to play-back signals from a plurality of play-back sources;  
a control unit for  
deciding whether the first operation unit and the second operation unit select a common one of the plurality of play-back sources and whether the play-back signals from the common play-back source is in an output-stopped state, and

for inhibiting the release of the output-stopped state when the control unit decides that the first operation unit and the second operation unit select a common play-back source and that the play-back signals from the common play-back source are in an output-stopped state; and

a priority setting unit for setting a priority for the first operation unit and the second operation unit.

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) A play-back device comprising:

a first operation unit and a second operation unit for operations to control the output states relating to play-back signals from a play-back source;

an interruption detecting unit for detecting an interruption signal;

a control unit for

determining whether the first operation unit and the second operation unit have selected a common play-back source and whether play-back signals from the common play-back source are in an output-stopped state in response to the interruption detecting unit detecting the interruption signal, and

for inhibiting the release of the output-stopped state when the control unit determines that the play-back signals from the common play-back source are in an output-stopped state; and

a priority setting unit for setting a priority for the first operation unit and the second operation unit.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) A play-back device comprising:

a first operation unit and a second operation unit for operations to control the output

states relating to play-back signals from a play-back source;

an interruption detecting unit for detecting an interruption signal;

a control unit for

determining whether the first operation unit and the second operation unit

have selected a common play-back source and whether play-back signals from the

common play-back source are in an output-stopped state in response to the

interruption detecting unit detecting the interruption signal, and

for inhibiting the release of the output-stopped state when the control unit determines

that the play-back signals from the common play-back source are in an output-stopped state;

and

a priority setting unit for setting a priority for the first operation unit and the second operation unit, wherein the control unit inhibits the release of the output-stopped state even if the operation to release the output-stopped state is done from a lower priority one of the first operation unit and the second operation unit on the basis of the priority set by the priority setting unit.

Claim 10. (Previously Presented) A play-back device comprising:

a plurality of play-back sources;

a first output unit and a second output unit for selecting at least one of the play-back sources to output play-back signals from the at least one of the play-back sources;

a first operation unit for operations relating to the first output unit;

a second operation unit for operations relating to the second output unit;

an interruption detecting unit for detecting an interruption signal;

an output stop setting unit for bringing play-back signals from the at least one of the

play-back sources when the interruption signal is detected by the interruption detecting unit;

a control unit

for determining whether a common play-back source is selected by the first output unit and the second output unit and whether the common play-back source is in an output-stopped state, and

for inhibiting the acceptance of the operation even if the operation relating to the play-back signals in the output-stopped state is done from the second operation unit in response to the control unit determining that the common play-back source is in an output-stopped state; and

a priority setting unit for setting a priority for the first operation unit and the second operation unit.

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) A play-back device comprising:

a plurality of play-back sources;

a first output unit and a second output unit for selecting at least one of the play-back sources to output play-back signals from the at least one of the play-back sources;

a first operation unit and a second operation unit for operations to control the output state relating to the play-back signals from the at least one of the play-back sources;

an interruption detecting unit for detecting an interruption signal;

a control unit

for determining whether the first output unit and the second output unit select

a common play-back source, and

for inhibiting the acceptance of an operation to control the output state relating to the play-back signals from the common play-back source in response to the interruption

detecting unit detecting the interruption signal, even if the operation is done from the second operation unit; and

a priority setting unit for setting a priority for the first operation unit and the second operation unit.

Claim 12. (Original) A play-back device according to Claim 11, wherein the control unit inhibits, when the interruption signal is detected by the interruption detecting unit, the acceptance of the operation of the second operation unit to control the volume of the play-back signals from the play-back source selected by the first output unit, even if the operation is done from the second operation unit.

Claim 13. (Original) A play-back device according to Claim 11, wherein the interruption detecting unit detects the interruption signal to detected the used state of a telephone.

Claim 14. (Original) A play-back device according to Claim 11, wherein the first output unit outputs the play-back signals to the front side of a vehicular compartment, and wherein the second output unit outputs the play-back signals to the rear side of the vehicular compartment.

Claim 15. (Previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein said output-stopped state comprises a mute state.

Claim 16. (Previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein said output-stopped state comprises a pause state.

Claim 17. (Previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein said control unit accepts a signal from said second output unit to switch between a single mode and a dual mode.

Claim 18. (Previously presented) The device of claim 17, wherein said control unit accepts operation signals for a headphone unit from said second output unit when said dual mode is selected.

Claim 19. (Previously presented) The device of claim 18, wherein action key signals are accepted for play-back modes from said second output unit when said dual mode is selected.

Claim 20. (Previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein said control unit accepts a signal from said second output unit to switch between play-back modes.

Claim 21. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein when the output-stopped state of the play-back signals is set by one of said first operation unit and said second operation unit, the output-stopped state is not releasable by the other of said first operation unit and said second operation unit.

Claim 22. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein said priority setting unit sets a higher priority to whichever of said first operation unit and said second operation unit has set the output-stopped state.

Claim 23. (New) The device according to claim 8, wherein said priority setting unit sets the priority in advance of the output-stopped state of the play-back signals being set.

Claim 24. (New) The device according to claim 23, wherein said priority setting unit sets the priority of one of said first operation unit and said second operation unit to a low priority and one of said first operation unit and said second operation unit to a high priority, and

wherein when the output-stopped state of the play-back signals is set in response to the interruption signal, the output-stopped state is not releasable by operation of the operation unit having a lower priority.